

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03979 242036Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 DHA-05 PM-05 AID-05 IGA-02

L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /060 W

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R 241813Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4156

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON NICARAGUA IN AUGUST
5, 1977 CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED AUGUST 5 CONGRESSIONAL
RECORD AND HAS READ SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENTS ON
PP. S13914-16. THESE STATEMENTS REVEAL SOME FACTUAL
MISCONCEPTIONS AND LACK OF INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT
MAY WISH TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF SENATOR KENNEDY. WE
PARTICULARLY WISH TO ADDRESS THREE POINTS HERE.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY REFERS TO 5,000 M-16 RIFLES FOR
GN FINANCED BY FY77 FMS-C. M-16 RIFLE CREDIT SALE WAS
APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER 1976 AND FINANCED BY FY76 FMS-C
(NOT 77). IN A RELATED STATEMENT HE SAYS THE ADMINISTRATION
CONTINUES TO DISBURSE PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MILITARY
AID TO NICARAGUA. PERHAPS HE IS UNAWARE OF THE CURRENT
FY77 SUSPENSION ON FMS-C.

3. THE REFERENCE TO JUSTICE IN NICARAGUA NOW BEING
DISPENSED ALMOST SOLELY THROUGH THE MILITARY COURTS
IS INCORRECT. THE MILITARY COURTS ONLY HANDLE
SECURITY CASES WHICH ARE A SMALL FRACTION OF LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS.

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PAGE 02 MANAGU 03979 242036Z

4. REFERENCE TO 11 DIFFERENT MISSIONS THAT HAVE
TRAVELED TO NICARAGUA TO URGE PROGRESS IN THE
AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MISUNDERSTANDING. THE
FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS REFER TO EMBASSY DEMARCHES,
PRINCIPALLY BY FORMER AMBASSADOR THEBERGE. HOWEVER,
SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY

REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF ALLEGED DEATHS
AND DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED BY CATHOLIC CHURCH SOURCES INCLUDING
CAPUCHIN PRIESTS HAS DROPPED OFF DRAMATICALLY SINCE EARLY 1977.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF ABOVE COMMENTS
ARE USED TO BRIEF SENATOR KENNEDY.
RUBENSTEIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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